



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



48 COMPETE IN THE NOSE ART CONTEST



There were 48 winners in the Nose Art competition among the students at the Pierre Boys and Girls Club. Everyone walked away from this project with a better understanding of the role aircraft has played in defending our country.

Sonja Johnson, director of the South Dakota National Guard Museum noted this was the final stage of a month-long project of educating the students on the types of aircraft used by our military. "It is important that we find every angle possible to share our military history with our youth," said Johnson.

Deputy Secretary Harding was on hand to judge the Nose Art designs and the air crafts flying abilities.

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11TH ANNUAL VA SHOW AND SHINE

The Sioux Falls Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center will have their 11th annual VA Show & Shine on August 22, 2012.

All vehicles and motorcycles are welcome. There is no charge for registration or entrance. Registration will be from 5:30-6:30 pm in the front parking lot at the medical center located at 2501 W. 22nd Street.

Attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite car and motorcycle from 6:30-7:15 pm. Trophies will be awarded for Veterans' Choice, People's Choice, and Director's Choice. Dash plaques will be available, first come – first served. Veterans Canteen Service will have food for purchase.

Commemorative t-shirts are available for \$15 and must be ordered by August 8. This event is sponsored by the Sioux Falls VA Employee Association and the Veterans Canteen Service.



SD GUARDSMEN ADVANCE TO NATIONAL COOKING COMPETITION

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, of Pierre, advance to compete in the national Philip A. Connelly cooking competition in October. The 152nd earned the highest score from a panel of three judges during the 2012 annual Golden Coyote training exercise in June to win the Region VI Philip A. Connelly title.

The Philip A. Connelly Award was established March 23, 1968, to recognize excellence in Army Food Service. The program is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of International Food Service Executive Association who was responsible for obtaining IFSEA's sponsorship of the event.

The competition judges the mess section in ten categories to include: sanitation; food safety; water safety; non-commissioned officer development; equipment knowledge and maintenance; presentation; portion size; temperature and taste.

Competition at the national level will be similar to competing at the regional level. Each of the seven units will be judged in their home states. The 152nd will be judged at their armory in Pierre on Oct. 14.

Look out Bobby Flay and Paula Dean! South Dakota's team has mastered their skills and are ready for the heat in the kitchen!!!!



POW/MIA NATIONAL RECOGNITION DAY

Until they are home

National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 21, 2012
www.dtic.mil/dpmo

WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

*You served, you deserve
★ the best care anywhere.*



WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

All women who have served or currently serve
in the military are encouraged to attend.

October 19, 2012

9:00 AM - 2:45 PM

Holiday Inn City Centre

100 W. 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD

Registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact:

Charlotte McGrath 605-336-3230, Ext. 7747

or 1-800-316-8387, Ext. 7747

MEMORIAL FLAG PROGRAM

Families of veterans are invited to donate their memorial flags to the State of South Dakota to be flown in Hilger's Gulch. United States flags are flown by the State on several holidays and other special occasions. Located just north of the State Capitol, Hilger's Gulch Park is part of the Capitol Complex in Pierre, and is a beautiful park with almost 1.5 miles of walking paths. Each donated United States flag will be flown on holidays and special events until the flag is worn. Another memorial flag will then replace the flag. Once replaced, the worn flag will be disposed of in an honorable and dignified manner. For several years, worn flags have been provided to service groups and organizations for use in flag disposal ceremonies.

The Memorial Flag Program was started in 1987 by Jackie Marso as a way to honor her husband and other deceased military veterans. The program was transferred to the State in 2002, and we are pleased to continue this tribute to our veterans.

It is recommended that casket flags be re-sewn before donating the flag to the Memorial Flag Program as re-sewing increases the life span of the flag. Flags are placed in inventory and used to replace worn flags.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Memorial Flag Program should complete the Memorial Flag Program form and include it with their memorial flag. The name of the designated veteran will be included in a registry which may be viewed online. (http://www.state.sd.us/boa/memorial_flags.htm)

Thank you for considering donating your memorial flag to the Memorial Flag Program. Please contact the South Dakota Bureau of Administration at (605) 773-3688 with any questions.



YELLOW RIBBON CEREMONY

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs staff participated in the DOD Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program for the 189th in Rapid City last weekend.

Field Officer Steve Oliva briefed participants on benefits available to them and their family and the resources for them to use. Ryan Fowler, education representative, briefed participants on educational programs, as well as the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

In addition, the Department manned a booth and were available to field questions.



VA EXPANDING BURIAL OPTIONS IN RURAL AREAS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that it is moving forward with a plan to provide burial services for veterans in rural areas where there are no available VA national cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries or tribal veterans cemeteries.

Under the Rural Initiative plan, the VA will build small National Veterans Burial Grounds within existing public or private cemeteries in rural areas where the unserved veteran population is 25,000 or less within a 75-mile radius.

The VA plans to open eight National Veterans Burial Grounds that will serve veterans in the areas of Fargo, N.D.; Rhinelander, Wis.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Laurel, Mont.; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Cedar City, Utah; Calais, Maine; and Elko, Nev.

VA officials will announce further details about the eight new burial grounds as information becomes available. This new initiative will make VA burial options available to more than 136,000 Veterans and their eligible dependents.

A National Veterans Burial Ground will be a small, VA-managed section of three to five acres within an existing public or private cemetery. VA will provide a full range of burial options and control the operation and maintenance of these lots. These sections will be held to the same “national shrine” standards as VA-run national cemeteries.

The VA is still evaluating suitable sites for its Rural Initiative. In Laurel, Mont., the VA is exploring with local officials the feasibility of acquiring a portion of the Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery to establish as a National Veterans Burial Ground. The VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Nearly four million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict – from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan – are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone, grave marker or medallion.

More information on VA burial benefits is available from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA Regional Offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at the time of need at any VA national cemetery, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.



Upcoming Events

Aug 4-5—American Legion Riders Chapter 7 Poker Run—Hot Springs
Aug. 15—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) 10:00 am—2:00 pm
Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Annual Show and Shine—VA Sioux Falls (2501 W. 22nd Street)
Aug. 23—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rosebud/Mission
Aug. 27-29—VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre
Aug. 27—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rapid City
Aug. 29—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Stand Down—McLaughlin
Aug. 30—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Stand Down—Eagle Butte
Aug. 30– Sept. 3—SD State Fair—Huron (Veterans Day—Aug. 30)
Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—610 E. SD HWY 46 (10:00 am—2:00 pm)
Sept. 14—Stand Down—Watertown
Sept. 21—Stand Down—Sioux Falls - VFW— 3601 S. Minnesota Ave. (9:00 am—3:00 pm)
Sept 21—POW MIA DAY
Sept. 25—Stand Down—Aberdeen Civic Center—203 S. Washington (2:00 pm—7:00 pm)
Sept. 25 Pierre Homeless Connect
Sept. 30—Gold Star Mothers Day
Oct. 19—SFVAHCS Women Veterans Conference—Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre

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